



News in brief

Library fees waived – for a cause

The Romulus Public Library is sponsoring an amnesty week in which all accumulated fines will be waived on returned books and other materials – but there's a catch.

The program will run from Nov. 17-22, but to qualify, borrowers must bring a long unopened, non-perishable food item that will be donated to area organizations that provide families with Thanksgiving baskets.

The Romulus Goodfellows, which operates a food bank, will be one of the recipients of the items.

Library officials feel that the program is a win-win for borrowers because it will receive long-missing materials which then can be placed back into circulation, borrowers will avoid fees, and the food bank will have a chance to replenish stock.

The library requests that food donations be brought into the building so as not to fill up the book drop.

The library is located at 11121 Wayne Road, next to the Romulus City Hall building. For more information, call (734) 942-7589.

Salvation Army seeks bell ringers

The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit is calling on residents to help fill the need for Red Kettle bell ringers this holiday season. The group needs to fill more than 50,000 two-hour shifts from Nov. 14 through Dec. 24.

The Salvation Army is starting the search for bell ringers earlier than ever this year to ensure there will be enough volunteers stationed at the 300 red kettles that will be located throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. The Salvation Army is hoping the Ringbell.org volunteer drive will help to save \$200,000 in expenses during the 117th Red Kettle fundraising campaign.

"We know times are tough in metro Detroit, but our volunteer bell ringers are really the backbone of our Christmas fundraiser," said Major Norman Marshall, divisional commander for The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit. "Donating two hours of time to ring a bell can really make a difference to support those in need."

Bell ringing opportunities throughout Southeast Michigan are posted at www.ringbell.org. Anyone can log on, pick a preferred location and a two-hour shift that is convenient for them. Volunteers can sign up for one or more two-hour shifts and will receive a confirmation email just prior to the selected date.

Funds raised during the annual Red Kettle Campaign help to assist local families and individuals in times of need. The money also helps maintain local services and self-improvement programs for children and adults.

At work in Michigan since 1887, the Salvation Army operates 180 facilities throughout the state. In 2007, these facilities were involved in providing more than 2.8 million meals and 770,314 nights of shelter for the homeless. For more information about the Salvation Army, call (877) SAL-MICH or visit www.salmich.org.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

75¢

Don't forget to cast your ballot Tuesday Nov. 4



Election turnout expected to be high

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Crowds are expected at election precincts Tuesday as voters turn out to choose a new president, and decide many other local races and issues.

City Clerk Linda Choate said that interest in the election is off the charts because of excitement created by the two presidential candidates, Sen. Barack Obama (D-Illinois) and Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona).

"There was more interest in the election this year than in 2004 because of the candidates," she said. "But that isn't always what brings people to the polls."

"We've had people that have registered vote – some of them are in their 30s and say they have never voted – that are interested in this election's outcome," said Choate, who has been the city

clerk for 25 years. "It's my experience that many issues bring people out to vote – it could be the two school ballot issues that are bringing people out."

If absentee ballots are any indicator, the voter turnout is likely to be higher this year than in 2004.

One month before the election, 1,000 absentee ballots were sent to voters, versus the 800 ballots sent out for the entire 2004 election cycle, according to numbers from the clerk's office.

In addition to the president's contest, voters will decide key races at both a national and local level.

Longtime Democratic Senator Carl Levin will face three opponents, including Republican Jack Hoogendyk Jr., Green Party Candidate Harley Mikkelsen, U.S. Taxpayers Candidate Michael Nikitin, Libertarian Scotty Bowman, and Doug Dern of the Natural Law Party.

Also seeking re-election is Rep John Dingell (D-Dearborn), who represents voters in the 15th Congressional District.

He will face Republican John Lynch, Aimee Smith of the Green Party, James Wagner of the U.S. Taxpayers Party, and Gregory Stempfle of the Libertarian Party.

Four men are seeking to represent voters living in the 22nd District for the next two years on the State Legislature, including Douglas Geiss, a Democrat and current president of the Taylor City Council. His opponents are Darrell McNeill (R-Taylor), Dennis Schlemmer (Lib-Taylor) and Charley Johnson (NPA-Taylor).

Geiss said he is anticipating Tuesdays' contest.

"I'm just waiting for Tuesday," he said. "Whether you have confidence or whether there

See Election, page 4



Scary, indeed

The frights of Halloween came a little early last weekend when residents and city officials gathered at the Romulus Progressive Hall for Mayor Alan Lambert's Halloween party. Residents – some of them decked out in lavish costumes – enjoyed refreshments and conversation, and heard Lambert announce that he will seek a third term as mayor.

Lambert announces candidacy

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert announced during a packed Halloween party last weekend that he will seek a third term.

Lambert, who has been mayor of the 18,000-resident city for seven years, is up for re-election along with members of the Romulus City Council in 2009.

He said he made the announcement a year in advance because of conjecture about his future as mayor.

I fully intend to run for another term because I think there's still quite a bit to do.

Mayor Alan Lambert

Community college seeks funding approval

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) will ask voters to approve a reduced millage renewal on the ballot next week.

The school is asking voters for continued support of a 10-year millage first approved in November 2001, at a reduction of .25 mills. The reduced property tax levy would go into effect in 2011, and is definitely not a tax increase, according to officials.

Currently, there are three main sources of revenue for the college: property tax, tuition and student appropriation. If the millage is not approved, college officials said they will most likely have to make program, facility and service cuts.

"The WCCCD has kept all the promises it made and will continue to provide affordable, high quality educational services," said Vidya Moorthy, spokesperson for the college district. "We hope that the residents of Belleville and all of Wayne

The WCCCD has kept all the promises it made and will continue to provide affordable, high quality educational services.

Vidya Moorthy

County will recognize the crucial need for this institution and support education and support WCCCD."

The college plays an important role in job retraining for laid-off workers and other career transitions. It serves about 70,000 credit and non-credit students every semester within the 32 communities it encompasses, which is about 500 square miles and about 2.3 million people, officials said.

The college also offers more than 90 programs and courses, officials noted. The college has under-

gone a massive capital improvement program at all five campus locations and has an exceptional culturally diverse student body, with students from more than 60 countries.

The college partners with other regional and secondary schools to encourage students to complete high school and transition on to college. Students deserve and must have a high quality educational service equal to those provided by other community colleges, according to officials.

"Especially in these trying economic times that demand a well-educated workforce, this institution is about providing people access and opportunity to build a better life," said Moorthy.

College officials take great pride in the benefit provided to the communities they serve daily through the public safety and health professionals who developed their job skills at the college, along with educational services that meet the needs of urban and suburban communities.

"I heard a lot of rumors that I wouldn't be running, and that's not true – I fully intend to run for another term because I think there's still quite a bit to do," he said.

Lambert, before he was elected mayor, served as a city council member, a school board trustee, and a Romulus police officer. The city has enjoyed some big successes in a difficult economic environment, but has also been dealt some blows under Lambert's tenure.

The mayor cites delivering a balanced \$23 million general fund budget to the city council year after year, and avoiding stripping anyone of their job to save money. Lambert said that fact alone helped create stability during rough fiscal times.

"Communities around us have been forced to lay off hundreds of city employees, and make deep cuts to balance their budget," he said. "We've been able to maintain services through sound fiscal management – and we have not had to lay off one single city employee."

But there were also some disap-

See Lambert, page 4

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Eyes on the prize

Area teen on the cusp of professional racing career

Scott Spielman
Editor

Most high school juniors may be thinking about which college they want to attend, but Eric MacDonald of Westland has another goal in mind.

He wants to make 'factory.' That's the industry term for being picked up by a major national sponsor and the 16-year-old motocross champion has a plan to make that happen.

"We think he has a pretty good chance," said his father, Bob MacDonald.

He might have made it already after a top finish last year at the 27th Annual Air Nautiques/AMA Amateur National Motocross Championships at Loretta Lynn's Ranch. Eric was only 15 at the time, though, and not old enough for consideration.

Even so, the showing was improbable, considering he was only three months removed from a stay in the intensive care ward—courtesy of a nasty spill he took in 'the whoops,' a series of small hills motocross riders face on the course.

"He still wasn't 100 percent," said Bob MacDonald.

Erik had passion, though, and discipline. He first got the itch to race when he was 9 years old, after trying out a miniature bike "I just couldn't get enough of it," he said.

Practices and regular races followed—and soon, so did the championships. He was named National Champion in the 65 Beginner's category in 2003 and has earned

plenty of accolades since. All the while, his parents supported him—even though it was difficult when he suffered some injury.

"I wanted to sell all of the stuff off a few times and go onto something else," said Bob MacDonald, who keeps the bikes running in peak condition.

"Once it grabs you, it's in your blood," said Eric's mother, Rene MacDonald. "There's no turning back."

Eric, a junior at Wayne Memorial High School, has a plan to make his dreams come true. It gets under way in January, when he heads off to Texas for three months of intensive training and competition. The racing season gets under way in March and culminates with a trip to Loretta Lynn's. If he's successful there he will most likely be picked up by a major sponsor.

"A win at the Amateur Nationals can serve as a springboard to a lucrative professional motocross career," said Event Director Tim Cotter.

Until then, the young man will ready himself with a daily routine that may leave most of his peers scratching their heads. It starts at 5:30 a.m. with a 10-mile ride on his elliptical bike. Then it's off to school, after which he spends an hour or two in the gym on weight training. He tries to practice two or three days a week at a friend's track. He doesn't eat junk food and often cooks for himself, too.

"For a young man, his discipline is amazing," said his father. "It's not something we push, either—it's all him. It's almost like being in the military. He's pretty focused."



Eric MacDonald of Westland, a junior at Wayne Memorial High School, has his sites set on a professional motocross career.

MacDonald said it was actually pretty easy because he knows that to be successful, he has to put in the effort 24/7.

"Your off track habits reflect how you'll do on the track," he said.

He knows the coming season will present plenty of challenges—including being away from his family for so long. He said he'll be home schooled to maintain his B average and he'll keep his eye on the prize, too.

"It's a big struggle, trying to get up to the top," said MacDonald. "But once you do it's the best feeling in the world. It means that all the hard work you've done has been worth it."

For his proud father, the best feeling is watching his son mature into a confident champion.

"He was in my shadow for a lot of years," said Bob MacDonald, "Now he's 10 feet in front of me."



Scary stuff

Other winners of the scarecrow contest hosted by the Belleville Parks and Recreation Commission included the Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue, who won the adult group choice from city council members. Also pictured are entries by residents Mark and Therese Wadell and the Pro Hardware store. Winners were announced on Monday during the parks and recreation meeting.



The Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club
Proudly Endorses the following Candidates in the November 4th, 2008 Election:



Sharry A. Budd* for Van Buren Twp. Treasurer Sharry Budd, long time Twp. resident and Certified Public Finance Administrator with 34 years of financial management experience has proven to be well qualified to continue as Twp. Treasurer. Sharry is a graduate of Michigan Townships Assoc. Governance Academy, an active member of Michigan Municipal Treasurers and Association of Public Treasurers, and a true asset to our community and township board.



Phillip Hart* for Van Buren Twp Trustee Phil has a BBA degree in Business Administration and has consistently displayed leadership, teamwork, honesty & integrity in his current Trustee position. Experienced with grants, alternative funding, balanced budgets, investments, preserving history, planning/collaboration with local, county & state officials and a member of Michigan Townships Assoc. Governance Academy, Phil has the experience you can trust and count on in these challenging times.



Jeffrey L. Jahr* for Van Buren Twp Trustee Jeff, long time Twp. resident and Belleville High School, University of Michigan and the University of Michigan Law School graduate, has practiced law in our area for 40 years. Jeff has been active in many organizations and his background and experience have made him a valuable asset on the township board. Jeff's record speaks for itself and he is well qualified to continue to serve as Trustee.



Kevin McNamara* for Wayne County Commissioner, District 11 (Belleville, Canton, Van Buren, Sumpter, and Wayne). Kevin is a delegate to SEMCOG (southeast Michigan's regional planning agency) and an active participant on the committees that oversee transportation and infrastructure projects in our county. Kevin, a frequent visitor to our municipal halls and community activities, is in touch with the needs of our communities and has the experience necessary to represent us as County Commissioner.



Dian Slavens for State Representative, 21st District Dian and husband Mark have lived, attended church and raised their family in Canton for over 20 years. Dian's experience comes from a lifetime of hard work and doing her best, like most of you, to provide the greatest opportunities possible for her family. As a mother and grandmother, Dian feels it is time to take a stand and fight for that kind of opportunity for our next generation. Whether working to create jobs and protect workers, leading the fight for equal funding for local schools, ensuring equal access to affordable health care or protecting our way of life, you can count on Dian Slavens to represent your values in Lansing!

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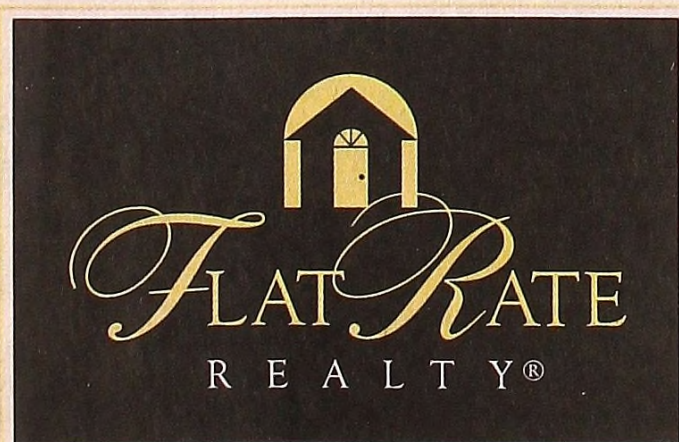
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2 area girls seeking pageant top spots

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Two area teens will participate in the 2008 Miss Teen Detroit Pageant, which will take place this weekend in Dearborn and St. Clair Shores.

The teens – Diamond Ervin, 17, of Romulus, and Hannah Esposito, 7 of Inkster – will compete Nov. 2 and 3 in the pageant along with 150 other contestants for a laundry list of prizes, cash and a chance to represent Detroit at the Cities of American National Competition in Orlando, Fla.

Ervin will compete in the teen category, and Esposito will compete in the pre-teen category.

At the national level, \$60,000 in prizes and awards will be up for grabs, said Kathy Schaffer, the senior judge coordinator for the Detroit pageant.

“This is a pageant that allows a winner to move onto the pageant in Orlando,” she said. “At that time, scholarship money will be available (to the winner).”

The women will compete in the Miss Teen division of the pageant. They will be judged on their performance in a modeling routine – including both casual and formal wear – their personality and an interview, Schaffer said.

“The women will be judged by a nine- to 12-judge panel,” she said. “The judges are chosen from the beauty industry and from local businesses. We especially like to ask women business owners to

take part in the program because we feel they are good role models as entrepreneurs.”

Ervin, is a senior at Romulus Community High School, and will graduate in June 2009. She describes herself as “very spunky,” and said she enjoys working with young children and helping less fortunate individuals.

She started a cheerleading squad at the high school. Ervin said she hopes to gain some practical experience and some new friends through her participation in the pageant.

Esposito is home-schooled, and attends one day of classes per week at DSB Home School Academy.

She is active in scouting, and enjoys singing at her church, Hope Baptist in Romulus. She enjoys outdoor activities like ice skating and bicycling.

Schaffer said the pageant could help young women gain confidence they will need as they pursue an education or a career, after high school.

“We have no height or weight requirement, and there’s no swimsuit competition,” she said. “Our program is based strictly on self-esteem building.”

There is no cost to any contestant for participating in the pageant. Community businesses, organizations, and private donors have provided funds to help defray the cost of competing. Through the sponsorship program, each contestant receives all of the neces-



Hannah Esposito



Diamond Ervin

sary training, rehearsals, and financial support required to make a good showing at the local and national level, Schaffer said.

On Oct. 19, each Detroit contestant took part in a training program at the Dearborn Hilton Garden Inn so they understand how competing will work, and where they need to focus their skills. The interviews will take place Nov. 2 at the Hilton; the final pageant will take place at the R.H. Schaublin Auditorium in St. Clair Shores.

Contestants are typically from Detroit and the surrounding areas of Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties.

Fraud warning issued in area

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Westland police are warning residents to remain on guard against a persistent threat to their identities—and their pocketbooks.

Lt. Dan Karrick of the Westland Police Department said Thursday that the department regularly receives complaints from residents about scam efforts that targets them within their own homes.

“We’ve been having some issues with fraud, both phone calls and mail fraud,” he said. “A lot of the time it goes unreported—I don’t know how many incidents there have actually been.”

The phone calls, which may be made live or by an automated phone call, typically claim to be from a credit union, bank, or credit union. Although the details can vary, Karrick said that the voice on the often warns the recipient that there had been some suspected fraudulent activity on their account and asks the resident to enter their account number and then their PIN or password—in order to sort the matter out.

“People are falling prey to this by giving out their personal information over the phone,” said Karrick, adding that well-meaning residents who get conned into believing the caller’s story then find unauthorized charges to the account they had been trying to protect.

To add to the confusion, Karrick said that although many of the scams originate outside the country—including a number coming from Spain—the numbers often show up on Caller ID as a valid phone number of an unrelated business, (920) 968-0574.

If residents do receive a phone call that they suspect may be predatory, he said that there are several things they can do to protect themselves and their assets.

“A lot of it is just common sense,” he said.

First and foremost, he stressed that residents need to be aware that if a representative for a legitimate financial institution calls an individual customer, they will not ask for the resident’s full account number; they already have it. Instead, they ask questions such as the last four digits of the account number, the last four digits of the resident’s Social Security number, or security questions such as mother’s maiden name to confirm the identity of the person to whom

they are speaking. If the unwelcome caller claims to need the full account number, Karrick said, it’s a hoax.

If uncertain as to whether or not the call is legitimate, he encouraged residents to get a phone number to call the person back. Then, he said, residents should either compare that number to published numbers for the business to determine its legitimacy or simply call the customer service number that appears on the back of their credit or debit card or on their account statements.

As far as mail fraud goes, Karrick said that the Westland police are most commonly called in to deal with reports of scams related to supposed lottery or sweepstakes winnings.

“If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is,” he said.

Often originating in Nigeria, the scam artist sends an official looking letter to an individual congratulating them on winning money in some type of lottery-style prize. The note may then ask the ‘winner’ to send a certain amount of money to cover the taxes on the winnings so that the funds can be released; those who do don’t ever see the money. In some cases, however, Karrick said that the congratulatory letter might include a realistic looking check along with a request for the winner to send the funds for the taxes on the winnings.

Although he cautioned that prosecution could be difficult for scams operated from overseas, Karrick encouraged residents to report any attempts at fraud to the police so that they can be aware of it and keep an eye out for possible trends.

Residents should bring any related mail or documentation to the police. In the case of telephone scams, he encouraged residents to ask a lot of questions and to write down any details they have access to including the date, time, the number showing on caller ID if applicable, the name of the person to whom they spoke, specifically what company the person claimed to represent, and specifically what was said.

“All the specifics they can give us will help,” he said.

For more information, individuals should contact their local police department. More information on common mail fraud schemes are available online at www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov.

Election

FROM PAGE 1

is a lack of confidence isn’t the issue. Ultimately this will be decided by the people. I’m running like I’m behind in the polls, and I won’t stop until 8 p.m. on Tuesday.”

Proposal 1, also known as the medical marijuana bill, would allow terminally ill patients to obtain prescriptions for marijuana as long as they meet certain criteria. Marijuana is said to help ease the pain of people suffering from terminal illness. The proposal was placed on the ballot through the efforts of the Coalition for Compassionate Care, led by Dianne Byrum.

Proposal 2 would provide for a constitutional amendment to permit stem cell research in Michigan under specified limitations.

Locally, two candidate’s names will appear on the ballot, though they are unopposed. No candidate emerged to oppose Judge David Parrott of the 34th District Court, which essentially means he will be re-elected to serve another six-year term on the bench.

Wayne County Commissioner Ed Boike will serve an 18th term on the commission after his opponent dropped out of the race days after the filing deadline.

A package of proposals is designed to provide funding to run the school district and make repairs on buildings will also appear on the ballot.

The first proposal is a non-homestead renewal is levied on business-



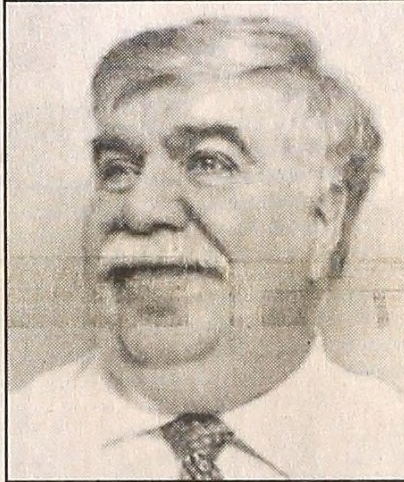
Douglas Geiss

es, rental property, apartments and other non-residential properties, and is not paid by homeowners. The proposal voters will be asked to approve will restore the non-homestead tax from 17.5 to 18 mills. This will generate about \$350,000 for the schools.

Though voters are not responsible for paying the funds, they are asked to approve it periodically to prevent inflationary reductions that decrease the tax. The tax will not increase the amount of taxes paid by Romulus residents.

The second is a homestead renewal, which is paid for by homeowners. The district is seeking to maintain the current homestead property tax levy at 8.99 mills. This tax provides necessary operating capital of about \$3.1 million to run the school district. This will not increase the amount of taxes paid by Romulus residents.

Also, the district is asking for a sinking fund, which is a new tax that establishes a fund for capital



Darrell McNeill

outlay items such as roofing, heating and cooling equipment, parking lots and sidewalks, technology and security infrastructure.

Romulus schools are asking for a 0.75 mill sinking fund for a period of 10 years that will generate about \$1 million in funds that can only be used for physical repairs and improvements to facilities.

Though the district does not presently have a sinking fund, financial staffers have found a way to introduce one without raising taxes on residents.

School Board Treasurer Celeste Roscoe said she hopes voters would understand the school’s financial condition and approve the proposals.

“I really think it could go either way, given the hard economic times right now,” she said. “However, our schools desperately need funding, and I hope voters will understand that.”

The polls will open at 7 a.m., and will close at 8 p.m.

Lambert

FROM PAGE 1

pointments.

A plan to bring a casino to the city – which would have funneled a \$4 to \$10 million dedicated revenue stream into city coffers, as well as 2,000 jobs – fell apart after the U.S. Congress voted down a measure that would have allowed the Indian tribe to operate a casino on non-reservation land.

A plan to bring a harness racing track to the city was also cancelled after the backer of deal – Magna Entertainment – backed out upon learning about a company-wide earnings dip.

Lambert said he believes residents will understand that the issues that led to those troubles will not be placed on his shoulders.

“I think people know that I fought very hard for those things,” he said.

“I think that we will still find a

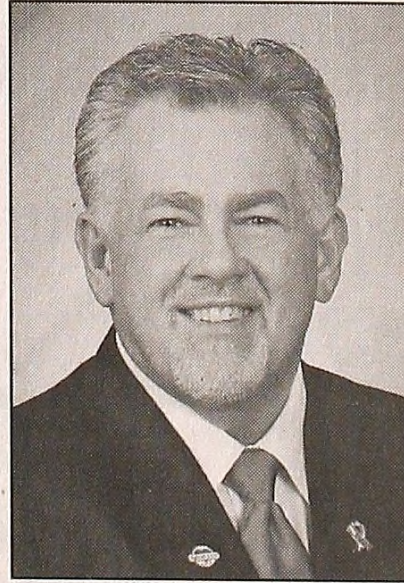
way to get a casino. The decisions that led to those outcomes were not ours – they were in other hands.”

Lambert, a Democrat, ran against incumbent Mayor Bill Oakley in 2001. In 2005, Lambert beat longtime City Councilwoman Debbie Romak in a hard-fought contest.

Councilman William Wadsworth, who has watched many elections during more than 20 years on the council, said he thinks Lambert has a good shot at re-election.

“He did everything he could regarding the casino, but the biggest problem we had in that was the City of Detroit,” he said. “I’ve served under three mayors – and he’s not perfect, but no one is – and I think he’s done a lot for the city.”

The City of Detroit lobbied Congress for the defeat of the bill that would have allowed the Sioux Indians to build a casino in Romulus because officials believed it would harm profits for the city



Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert

three gambling halls.

In addition to the mayor’s seat, seven council spots will be up for election in 2009.

No one has as yet announced an intention to run for any of those terms.

Calendar of events

Win Thanksgiving dinner

The St. Aloysius Usher’s Club is hosting the annual Feather Party on Monday. During the party, a lucky raffle winner will take home an entire Thanksgiving dinner for eight people – including a turkey, chicken, and cranberries. Bingo will be played during the party, and potential contestants are asked to bring family, friends, a bingo cushion, daubers, trinkets and quarters. The event will begin at 7 p.m. on Nov. 3 at the St. Aloysius Activity Center at 37200 Neville St. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and refreshments will be served. For additional information, call the church at (734) 941-5056.

Fall book club announced

The Second Monday Book Club has announced the selections for book discussion scheduled throughout the winter months. The book club meets from 7 until 8:15 p.m. at the library the second Monday of each month to discuss various books. The selections include: *Mr. Paradise* by Elmore Leonard, which will be discussed on Nov. 10; *Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy, which will be discussed Dec. 8; *American Detective: An Amos Walker Mystery* by Loren D. Estleman, which will be discussed Jan. 12; *Ladies of Liberty* by Cokie Roberts, which will be discussed Feb. 9; *Thief of Souls* by Ann Benson, which will be discussed March 9 and *Anatomy of a Murder* by Robert Traver, which will be discussed April 13. Book discussions are free and open to all age 18 and up. Readers need not register in advance. The library will have copies of the books, or will assist participants in obtaining an inter-library loan copy. The Romulus Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road, next door to Romulus City Hall. For more information, call the library at (734) 941-3575.

County-wide household hazardous waste collection

The Wayne County Department of Environment is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection day on from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 8 at the Westland Department of Public Works yard, 37137 Marquette, just east of Newburgh Road. Examples of acceptable items are: household paints, stains, dyes, floor wax, floor care product, carpet cleaner, fertilizer, lawn and garden chemicals, pesticides, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, automotive batteries and dry cell batteries. All Wayne County residents are eligible to drop off items, even if the collection will take place in Westland. For more information, please contact the Wayne County Resource Recovery Coordinator at (734) 326-3936.

Township to reserve funds to pay pensions

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Van Buren officials approved a retiree health care trust fund recently, which would set aside \$1.7 million.

According to Township Clerk Joannie Payne, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) now requires municipalities to report post employment benefits, namely retiree health care costs. After a valuation was performed to determine the unfunded liability, it was recommended that Van Buren should choose a trust for about \$2.1 million.

Payne said while the purpose is to start setting aside funding for long term retiree health care costs and while she knows that the township is not in a position to set aside \$2.1 million this year, a diligent effort at making some level of contribution into the trust on a yearly basis would demonstrate the board of trustees' acknowledgment and commitment to plan ahead and ensure future liabilities. It would, she said, demonstrate their commitment to current employees to provide retiree health care benefits after many years of service to the community. She said establishing the trust today also serves to send a message to the community that they are aware of the future obligations and are working to be fiduciary stewards in managing these future obligations.

"With the changes to the GASB rules it's no longer recommended to pay as you go because of rising costs," said Township Supervisor Cindy King. "The valuation was done and with the age of the work-

With the changes to the GASB rules it's no longer recommended to pay as you go because of rising costs.

**Township Supervisor
Cindy King**

force and the size, it was indicated we had \$14 million unfunded liability so the goal is to try and fund that because at some point in time we know the bill will come due."

The irrevocable fund would include the transfer of \$650,000 from the general fund and \$1,050,000 from the landfill fund for 2008. Funding of post employment benefits is now required of all municipalities by the GASB, officials said.

The township board members will decide as they move forward how much can be set aside each year for the fund, too.

"Of course things can change as we come into new contracts and such," said King. "Concerns with the \$14 million liability could change at times with more employee negotiations so we do need to set aside money and acknowledge the long term liability for the township.

"This will not impede general fund operations, the funds were set aside," she added. "With the way the economy is, maybe next year the board wouldn't put much aside or any."

Trustees also approved the acceptance of biosolid materials by Waste Management recently at the Woodland Meadows Recycling and Disposal facility.

Waste Management approached the township with the request since the current host agreement prohibits the acceptance of sewage, sewage sludge and municipal or industrial sewage sludge, unless approved by the township.

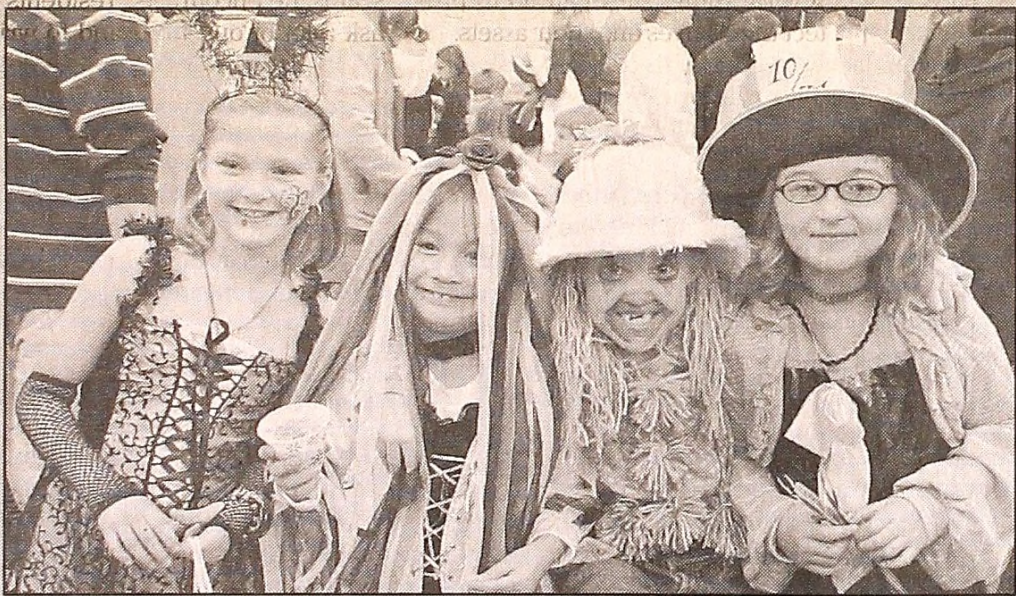
The provision was included in the host agreement—adopted in 1990—because of past concerns about possible management problems at the landfill and the potential nuisance for odor, according to Dan Swallow, deputy director of planning and economic development for the township.

"The landfill needs the township's permission to accept sewage sludge and, the treatment and handling has changed quite a bit," he said.

The biosolid materials are not a hazardous waste and, are commonly approved for land disposal on agricultural fields as nutrient enhancement. The township will also receive a \$40,000 increase annually.

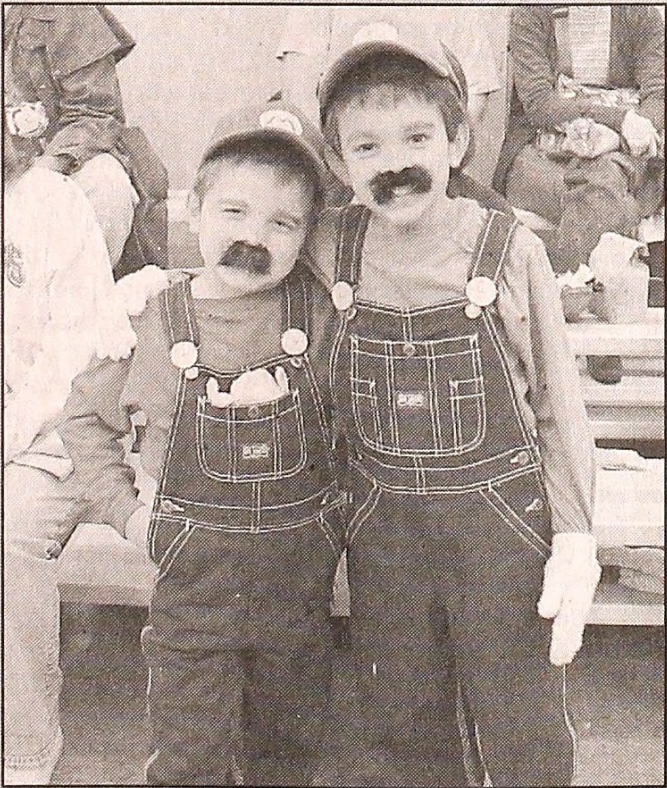
Waste Management will limit the quantity of biosolid materials accepted to no more than 250 tons per day and will discontinue acceptance in the event of nuisance conditions, such as odors that go unresolved and result in notices of violations, according to officials.

"We are aware that the current approved capacity of the landfill will last about 15 more years and at that time, it will then be up for discussion," said Swallow. "The township agreement basically lasts as long as the landfill keeps going."



'Key' to Halloween fun

The Keystone Academy in Belleville recently sponsored a school Harvest Fest, featuring children in costumes, face painting and plenty of seasonal games. Special appearances included the Super Mario Brothers (Jett and Jack Isaacs), along with students Alyssa Clark, Aly Jeng, Jaidyn Varney and Megan Kilpatrick dressed in costumes.



On the job Public service workers honored

The Van Buren Township Public Safety Department recently promoted Ken Floro to the rank of lieutenant.

Floro was hired in 1996 and was promoted to sergeant in 2004. He has been a member of the dive and rescue team for 11 years and graduated from the fire academy and emergency medical training to become a paid-on-call firefighter. Floro has also served as a field-training officer; an investigator in the detective bureau, an evidence technician, a member of the bicycle patrol team and on the accident investigation team.

Prior to joining the Van Buren depart-

ment, Floro worked as a police officer for Meridian Township and the Michigan State University Department of Public Safety.

Others from the Van Buren Public Safety Department were honored for their many years of service, including: Sgt. Fred Yono for 30 years, Lt. Ernie Thomsbury for 25 years, Firefighter Danny Wilson for 25 years, Ofc. James Miller for 25 years, Dispatcher Terri Brooks for 20 years, Det. Robert Greene for 20 years, Dispatcher David McNally for 15 years, Dispatcher Gretchen Ihlenfeldt for 5 years, Dispatcher Teri Rea for 5 years and Ofc. Amy Naif for 5 years.

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OPINION

Our Canton choices

Change is coming to the Canton Township Board of Trustees, but fortunately there are plenty of viable candidates to ensure a smooth transition.

The loss of long-time Supervisor Tom Yack and Treasurer Elaine Kirchgatter—both of whom are retiring—will provide a new look to the board. Canton voters are lucky in that they have viable candidates to fill those positions.

Phil LaJoy for supervisor

LaJoy is the clear choice to take over for Yack, who has left the community in good shape for his successor. Not only does LaJoy have six years of experience as a state representative—and all of the Lansing relationships that go with it—but he has served on the board of trustees, as well. He's got a solid business background and is well-versed in the issues facing Canton Township. He will ensure as seamless a transition as possible.

Incumbent Clerk **Terry Bennett** is running unopposed and **Melissa McLaughlin**, a long-time trustee and member of the planning commission, secured the treasurer post in the August primary, which brings us to the four part-time trustee posts.

There are four open spots on the board, with two not sought by incumbents—McLaughlin's and the one now filled by Todd LaJoy, who is seeking election to the state legislature—and there five viable candidates to fill the posts. We think this is a perfect opportunity to bring in some new blood and some diversity to the board.

Voters should select **Todd Caccamo, Karl Zarbo, Patrick Williams and Syed Taj**.

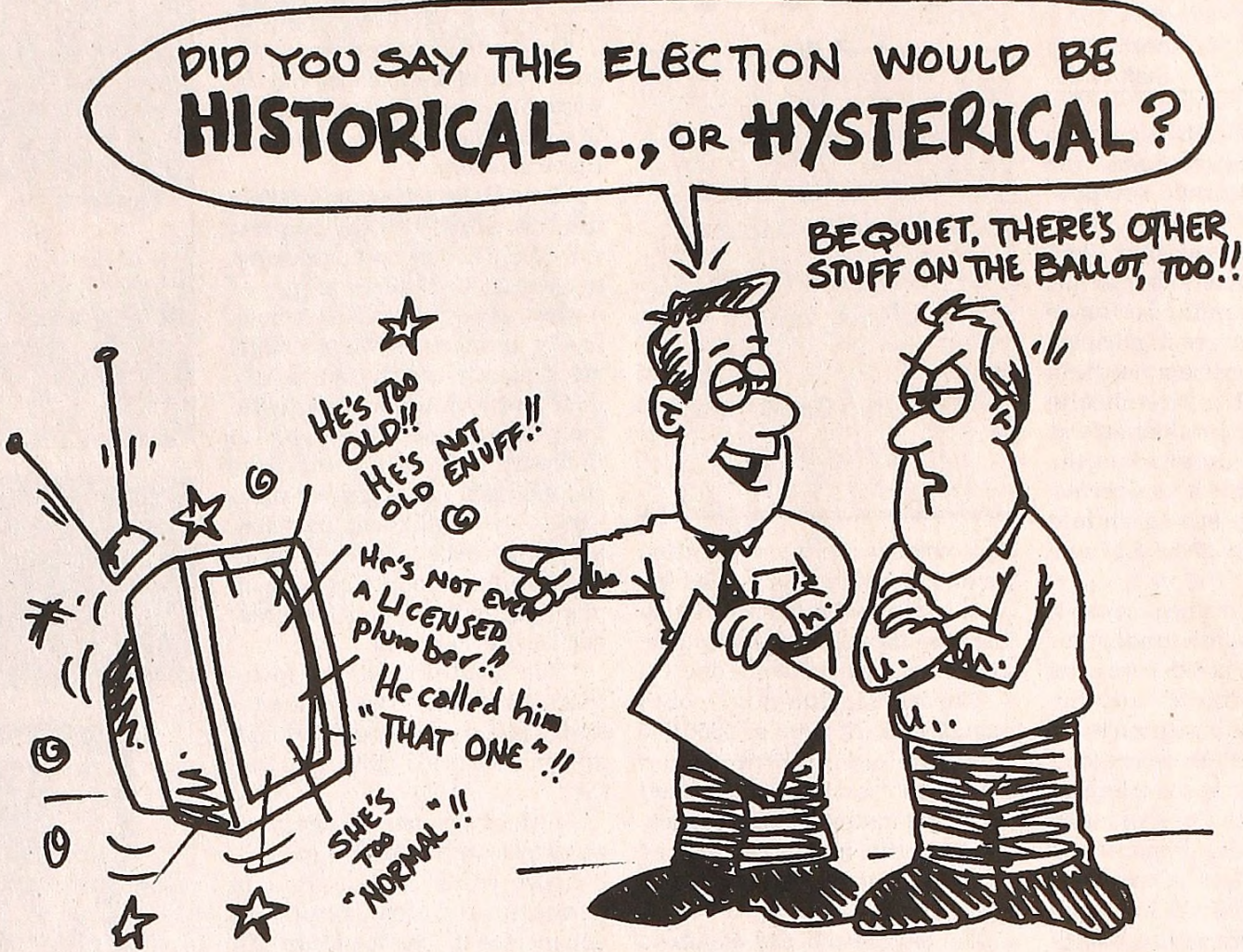
Zarbo is an easy choice. He has performed the job well during his time on the board and as a planning commissioner before that. He's shown that he always has the best interests of the community at heart and his decisions have been sound. His experience will be important, too.

Caccamo has proven his worth on the board, as well. He asks the tough questions that other board members are unlikely to voice. He questions information provided to board members, too, which shows us he spends time looking at the issues and seeks all information before he makes his decisions.

Williams already has a strong background of community service that shows he cares about the community. He has good relationships with the school district and the existing board members. He's got financial savvy, too, that will help during budget times. He's earned the vote of township residents.

Taj, a doctor, small business owner and former developer, will bring some needed diversity and a unique perspective to the board of trustees. There's a lot to like about him and his background in the medical field may prove invaluable

See **Canton**, page 5



Van Buren Township voters should select...

There may be some difficult days ahead for Van Buren Township.

With the ouster of a long-serving incumbent supervisor and clerk—not to mention two trustees—in the August primary, voters will have to choose their replacements carefully in order to keep things on the right path.

Larry Fix for supervisor

Fix is the clear choice to replace Cindy King. A plant manager, he has experience in labor relations that dates back more than two decades. Most importantly, he says he's not a micro-manager, that he will allow department heads and employees to do their job. We like his attitude, too, about talking about all the good things going on in the township.

Felicia Paris-Brooks for clerk

Paris-Brooks is the best choice to replace long-time incumbent Joanie Payne in this important office. Paris Brooks has an accounting background that will help her ease into her duties, and

an extensive background in customer service. She'll have to rely heavily on her deputy to keep things running properly, but the customer service aspect will no doubt improve under her tenure.

Sherrie Budd for treasurer

With the loss of King and Payne, it is vital to keep an incumbent on the executive board of the township. Budd deserves to keep the job.

Phil Hart, Jeffrey Jahr, Judy Johnson and Denise Partridge for trustee

We didn't endorse Hart for the August primary, citing the need for change on the board of trustees. Now one could argue that there will be too much change on the board and Hart's experience will be needed. Jahr, too, will provide some needed perspective to a board that will feature a majority of newcomers.

Johnson brings a businessperson's perspective to the board. We like her ideas on making the township more business friendly and on concentrating on public safety. Her desire to focus on

senior citizens is laudable, too.

Partridge, a township employee, will bring an inside perspective to the board. She'll have to resign her position, but she should be a good addition to the board of trustees.

Toni Hunt, Tim McKay for Van Buren Schools

Hunt, an incumbent, has done nothing to warrant her removal from the school board. As the district tries to tackle issues related to class size and infrastructure, her experience will be important.

McKay, a pastor, will bring a wealth of experience to the school board. He has a long history of working with children, which will come in handy, as well.

There will be challenging times ahead. Residents will need the right people in office to meet those challenges. We think the best people are Larry Fix, Felicia Paris-Brooks, Sherrie Budd, Philip Hart, Jeffrey Jahr, Judy Johnson, Denise Partridge, Toni Hunt and Tim McKay.

You've got to accentuate the negative, or not

Finally, the week many of us have been waiting for: the final week prior to the November election.

Soon, the political signs will disappear, the mailboxes will stop filling up, television commercials will revert to hawking some new wonder product that bonds to any material instantly and can be burned as an alternative source of energy.

It's the 'robocalls' that bug me the most. I don't get many phone calls at home and I'm loathe to answer them when I do, but when I pick up the phone the last thing in the world I want to hear is some recorded voice either (a) putting someone else down or (b) misinterpreting some law or action or vote or (c) some incumbent calling to say he or she actually voted on something when it came up.

Does anyone actually sit and listen to those things?

There are plenty of interesting races to watch throughout western Wayne County. I think the judicial race at the 35th District Court has the potential to be closer than anyone expected. The Northville Township Trustee race as well as the Northville School Board race can provide some drama, too, since an incumbent was voted out in the first and isn't running in the second.

Wayne County Commission candidate Steve Johnson has put up a valiant effort against incumbent Kevin McNamara; we'll see how his message resonated with voters.

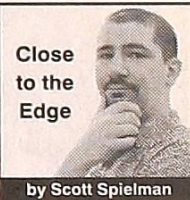
It will be interesting to see if the mood for a change reaches to the House of Representatives, where Republicans are trying to regain the 20th District, won two years ago by Marc Corrivau (D-Northville). Jerry Vorva is his opponent there.

The worst thing about the last week before an election is that is when the negative stuff tends

to make an even larger appearance. Many campaign advisors suggest a last late 'hit' piece to sully mailboxes, airwaves and more.

I noticed one on television a few days ago—it might have run for longer, but I don't watch much—from an unlikely source: Todd LaJoy, who is running for state representative against fellow Canton resident Dian Slavens. You can always tell these things because the photos they use of the opponent are grayed out, showing a downcast face. It surprised me because he has focused on positive things he wants to do, and issues, and I didn't think he needed to take a trip to the negative side of the equation.

But I've always thought that nobody does. What is it about human nature that makes us want to put down others in order to make ourselves look better?



'Airport City' could prevent flight of youth

In an even bleaker than bleak economy, some people may cringe when they hear those words. Possibly because it sounds like

the lyrics to the tune of more money being spent that we don't seem to have.

But, maybe, just maybe, the project could be the savior that so many of us are stretching to reach for: jobs, jobs and more jobs and money, money and more money to Michigan.

Van Buren Township recently approved an agreement between the Detroit Region Aerotropolis partners and stakeholders to create the Aerotropolis Development Corp. This would make the township an active member, with annual dues at \$50,000 to come from the Downtown Development Authority.

The key part of the agreement is all local control is preserved, according to Cindy King, supervisor of Van Buren Township.

"This is the answer to the economy if we can get businesses here to set up shop," she said. "This is our answer to that."

"I think we desperately need to diversify the economy," she

added. "The motor city will be important, but it's necessary to be broader than that."

A series of bills were also introduced recently to the Michigan House of Representatives that would allow significant economic incentives—like tax abatements, refundable tax credits and other financial incentives—to be available to attract businesses to locate in the Detroit Aerotropolis region.

Bryce Kelley, director of planning and economic development for Van Buren Township, said by approving the first official document for the project, officials hope years of planning and working can now move forward.

"The value is believed to be an absolute positive for the State of Michigan," he said.

Positives, such as attracting new wealth, global production, making links for tourist and entertainment destinations, embracing alternative energy, a link to the 'brain drain' and enhancing export markets, according to offi-

cials.

"For all practical purposes, it's the development of new investments," said Kelley. "We're talking to some fairly large investors coming to the area for future growth so I think there's going to be things in the ground by spring. We'll be able to report new businesses in the area because of aerotropolis."

We also keep hearing this project is driven by the economy.

"There's a need and a void that's trying to be filled," said Kelley. "Auto will never leave, but the system is contracting and because we have empty buildings and layoffs, we have distribution that needs to be placed."

"We've got an international marketing plan where we want posters in airports, we want networking, we want universities getting the word out, we want people



See **Airport**, page 7

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Airport

FROM PAGE 5

to know there are jobs here, a quality of life and tourism here, too," he added.

Officials are learning ways to capitalize on natural features and take advantage of the 'just in time' business world, as well, they said.

"Without aerotropolis we lose the momentum of sharing staff and resources and become individual people," said Kelley.

"The goal is the younger generation—the now 20 to 30-year-olds—because by the time the project builds out. It's absolutely geared toward that bright generation with more tools at hand, who are more technology driven," he added.

"We find younger people are hard workers and hard players. There's a reason why it's (aerotropolis) important to the state. We need high-tech and industrial, we need open space and parks and those aspects to

lure in investment around the world. Aerotropolis will bring sustainability."

Easy to say, but when it's difficult to pay your bills each month, it's not so easy to hear: We want that reassurance that it's going to work, but at this point, it's almost better off accepting any positive news that comes our way.

Airport city. Sure it's still years away, but I say if it means creating more jobs, bringing in more money and having a 'working' Michigan economy, give aerotropolis a try.

Most of us know that today's times call for a global economy, new money and links and enhancements for tourism, entertainment, culture, alternative energy and exports. That old saying really does go 'the times have changed' and we have to keep up with them and work together. People—in particular my generation—want to know there is more for them here in Michigan so if and when the opportunity knocks, they don't pack up and leave here altogether.

Canton

FROM PAGE 5

in the township, which is rapidly attracting the interest of a number of health care facilities. He doesn't have all the answers, but there will

be plenty of experience on the board and anyone who can become a doctor at the age of 22 has already proven he'll be a quick learner.

Township residents will be best served by voting for **Phil LaJoy, Terry Bennett, Melissa McLaughlin, Todd Caccamo, Syed Taj, Patrick Williams and Karl Zarbo** on Nov. 4.

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Sheriff fights budget cuts

Scott Spielman
Editor

Cuts proposed in the Wayne County budget may not last too long.

Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans obtained a temporary restraining order on Friday to block the layoff of 80 deputies from the county jail.

The county ordered layoffs were part of a mandate to trim the budget of the sheriff's department by 10 percent.

Evans said the cuts would have caused the release of hundreds of felons awaiting trial and put the department in violation of a 2005 circuit court ruling that mandated staff levels at the jail.

"I cannot, in clear conscience, compromise the safety of the public and violate a court order," Evans said. "Wayne County already has fewer jail beds than every comparably-sized county in the country. These cuts would cause us to further reduce our capacity to an unsafe level."

Evans says that it takes \$93 million to fully staff and operate the jail. The county budget proposed by County Executive Bob Ficano and approved by the county commission in late September provided only \$86.5 million, he said. In addition, the \$86.5 million allotted to the Sheriff's Office, Evans said, also must pay for other non-jail services that are mandated by state constitution, state statute or county charter.

Evans said that the only two long-term remedies for this situation are for a judge to order Wayne County to fund the jail operations

Heavy voter turnout expected Tuesday

Lester L. Holmes, Jr.
Staff Writer

If absentee ballot returns are any indication of the turnout of Plymouth Township voters during the upcoming General Election, Marilyn Massengill expects to busy.

Massengill, the township clerk with more than 16 years experience, said she expects to exceed more than 6,000 absentee ballot votes by 8 p.m. Nov. 4.

"We already have higher than normal return (on absentee ballots)," said Massengill who had already collected 36 percent or 2,049 of the absentee ballots mailed out to Plymouth Township residents. With residents being allowed to request absentee ballots up to the Saturday before the election, Massengill expects to receive more.

"Were only 250 or so ballots away from 6,000. We'll surpass that," she said.

Perhaps Plymouth Township voters are voting early due to many decisions they have to make. In addition to electing a President, U.S. Senator, U.S. House member and a representative to the Michigan Legislature

and the next judge of the 35th District Court, township voters must also decide all the offices of the Plymouth Board of Trustees.

There are elected terms in the city of Plymouth up for election.

As the township is responding to a significant number of absentee ballots, City of Plymouth Clerk Linda Langmesser said absentee ballots are not coming in as fast as she expected.

Last week, 473 or 32 percent of the absentee ballots mailed within the city had been returned. Langmesser believes voters may be still undecided and thus waiting to return their ballots.

"They're holding on to them for a reason," she said. Langmesser said she expects a high turnout since the city has exceeded the 7,000 registrant mark for the first time in several elections. Plymouth has 7,093 eligible voters. Plymouth Township has more

Those registered voters interested in receiving an absentee ballot must contact their municipal clerks.

Plymouth Township residents should call (734) 354-3224.

City of Plymouth residents should call 453-1234 x234.

than 22,000.

Those registered voters interested in receiving an absentee ballot must contact their municipal clerks. Plymouth Township residents should call (734) 354-3224. City of Plymouth residents should call 453-1234 x234.

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01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments & Cemetery Plots
05. Personals/Announcements
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
30. Help Wanted
31. Help Wanted Sales
32. Help Wanted Drivers
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Health and Fitness
43. Money to Loan
44. Music/Art Lessons
45. Adult Care
46. Private Schools/Instruction
47. Riding/Horses/Stables
50. Pets & Supplies
54. Rummage Sales
55. Estate Sales
56. Flea Markets
57. Antiques
58. Garage and Yard Sales
59. Auctions
60. Misc. Sales
61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business and Office Equipment
64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
65. Tree Service
66. Landscape / Nurseries
67. Garden Plant / Supplies
68. Garden / Produce
70. Masonry / Brickwork
72. Cleaning Services
73. Musical Merchandise
74. Sporting Goods
75. Boats / Accessories
76. Remodeling & Renovations
77. Recreation Vehicles
78. Hunting / Fishing
82. Wanted to Buy
87. Room for Rent
88. Duplexes for Rent
89. Apartments for Rent
90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent
92. Business Places for Rent
93. Banquet Halls
94. Farm Land for Rent
95. Real Estate
96. Houses for Rent
97. Cottages for Rent
98. Mobile Homes for Rent
99. Flats for Rent
100. Will Share
101. Wanted to Rent
102. Storage
103. Business Property for Sale
104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
105. Mobile Homes for Sale
106. Houses for Sale
107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale
108. Lake and Resort
109. Income Property
110. Lots for Sale
111. Out of State Property
112. Commercial Lease
113. Real Estate Wanted
114. Auto Accessories
115. Autos for Sale
116. Antique & Classic Cars
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Freebies
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries

Robert P. Gonczy, Sr., age 86, of Hobe Sound, died Thursday, October 16, 2008, at Treasure Coast Hospice in Stuart. He was born in Canada and was a resident of Hobe Sound for 20 years coming from Belleville, Mi. A United States Navy Veteran, he was a member of the VFW in Stuart; the Martin Count Golf Club, and attended St. Christopher Catholic Church in Hobe Sound. Mr. Gonczy was a graduate of Belleville High School and lived in the area for many years. He is survived by his daughter, Patricia Horton of Wiggins, Mississippi and two sons, Robert P. Gonczy, Jr. of Penrose, Colorado and Wilford "Bill" Gonczy of Hessel, MI. He is also survived by two sisters, Barbara Kurtz of Harrow, Ontario, Canada and Eileen Zulz of South Dakota and one brother, Donald Gonczy of Florida. Mr. Gonczy is also survived by: Fifteen grandchildren, twenty three great-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 40 years Geneva Gonczy, daughters Barbara Brackman and Marlene Lee and brothers Lawrence, John Jr., and Wilford Gonczy. A memorial service will tentatively be held in Belleville, MI on November 29, 2008. Memorial donations may be made to Treasure Coast

Hospice, 1201 SE Indian St., Stuart, FL 34997 or to St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Belleville. Arrangements were handled by All County Funeral Home & Crematory Treasure Coast Chapel, Stuart, Florida.

Sunrise: August 15, 1937
Sunset: Oct. 5, 2008

Alphonso Lorenzo Curtis Myles He was preceded in death by one son, Kevin Myles; one grand-son, Darnell Jamal Myles; one great-grandson, Darnell; his mother and father, Eddie and Mildred Myles; three sisters, Marie, Lavaughn, and Vergatta; and one brother, Johnny Nathaniel. Alphonso (Fox) made his transition on Oct. 5, 2008. He leaves to cherish his memory Doris Myles; one son, Darryl; three grandchildren, Kevin Myles II, William and Carlton McNaie; one great granddaughter Dasha; seven sisters, Bahiyyah (Joyce) Allen of Chicago, Sabreen (Trevia) Sharrief of Inkster, Cherrie Goffe of Los Angeles, Denise Ceoux of Detroit, Faith Anerson (George) of Inkster, Spring George of Maryland, and Shalise Winters of Detroit;

Two brothers, Cary Myles of Inkster and Claude Myles of Detroit; four Aunts, Emma Burns, Lubertha Selma, Jeanette Cross and Sarah Williams; all of Inkster and a host of Family and Friends. Friday, Oct. 10, 2008, Funeral 11:00am Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S. Inkster Rd., Inkster, MI 48141, Minister, Rev. Theresa Moton, Interment, Sunset Hills Memorial

Sunrise: February 7, 1972
Sunset: Oct. 2, 2008

Vernell F. Marable On Oct. 2, 2008 my journey in this world ended. To carry on in life, I leave my loving father, Feltus Otten Jr., my loving sister, Ursula Wynn (Terrance); my children: Amir, Vernell Jr., Cortez, An'ya and my little one, Nyla. I also leave my special nephew, Ferrell Jr., and my Aunt Sherry, who was always in my corner; my best friend, Spencer Weston; four aunts, four uncles, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. To my girl Patrice, Thank You for making sure I was taken care of. Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008, Family Hour 10:30 am, Home Going Service, 11:00am, Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S.

Inkster, Rd., Inkster, MI Elder Ronald P. Springer, Officiating, True Love Evangelistic Ministry

Sunrise: May 16, 1923
Sunrise: Oct. 1 2008

David Lee McGrier He leaves to cherish his memories: his devoted wife Reba, his children; Umarah Muqaribu, Marjorie Crowe, William Rice, his sister, Crystal Cooper, and brother, Montague McGrier. In addition, he is survived by numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Thurs., Oct. 9, 2008, Family hr-10am, Funeral 11:00am, First Missionary Baptist Church, 19127 Burr Ave., Brown, MI 48174, 734-941-1366, Pastor J.L. Davis, First Missionary Baptist Church, Officiating, Final Arrangements entrusted Penn Funeral

Home, 3015 S. Inkster Rd., Inkster, MI 48141, Mr. James H. Penn & Son, Directors 313-278-6300, Interment, Metropolitan memorial Park, Belleville, MI

Sunrise: May 27, 1928
Sunset: Oct. 5, 2008

Clarence Talley He leaves to rejoice in his memory, one daughter Arika L. Talley; two sons, Marcus J. Talley and Jason J. Davis; two grandchildren, Amari Davis and Idalis Rose Davis; two nephews, Robert and Dave Cooper and a host of great nieces and nephews. Service to be held, Monday, Oct. 13, 2008, Family hr., 10am- Service: 11am Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S Inkster rd., Inkster, MI 48141, Rev. Arthur C. Willis, Officiating, Interment, Cremation

Sunrise: November 22, 1941
Sunset: October 18, 2008

Sister Lemon Mae Baker She leaves to cherish her memory , her memory, her loving husband, Theophilus Baker; 12 children; 5 daughters, Deborah Johnson & Wanda Taylor of Inkster, MI Kim Dallas and Yolanda (Jerry) Harlen of Detroit, MI, Darlene Baker of Dayton, Ohio; 7 sons; Michael (LaSandra) Dallas, Darrell Baker, Vincent (Patricia) Dallas, Cedric (Tiki) Dallas, Greg (Jannette) Adams, Tyrone Dallas, and Andra Dallas all of Inkster, MI; 2 sisters, Alice Ruth Fagan and Mary Bess of Mobile, Al; 2 brothers, Jimmy Dallas of Mobile, Al and Harry Dallas of Hattiesburg, MS; 36 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews,

cousins, in-laws and close friends. Service to be held, Mon., Oct. 27, 2008, Family Hr.: 10:00am- service: 11:00am Middlebelt Baptist Church, 943 Middlebelt, Inkster, MI , Rev. Roscoe Belton, Officiating Final Arrangements entrusted To: Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S. Inkster Rd., Inkster, MI, 313-278-6300, Mr James H. Penn & Son, Directors, Interment: United Memorial Gardens, 4800 Curtis Rd., Plymouth, MI

Sunrise: Sept. 16, 1951
Sunset: Oct. 12, 2008

Mary Lee Wofford, she leaves to cherish her memory: four daughters, Carolyn Kelley (Los Angeles,

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CA.), Juma Kelley (Kansas, MO), Earnestine Yarbrough and Tammy Yarbrough (Detroit, MI). One son Lashawn Kelley Sr. (Los Angeles, CA). Four sisters, Esther Landom (Los Angeles, CA), Pearl homas(Alabama), Helen Jemison-Jackson (Los Angeles, CA), Georgetta Jemison-McAlpine (Sacramento, CA). Two brothers, Curtis Jemison (Alabama) and Tommie Taylor (Alabama). Twenty-two grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. One aunt Patricia Brown (Los Angeles, CA), and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.
Friday, Oct. 24, 2008, 11:30am,
Penn Funeral Home, 3015 Inkster rd., Detroit, MI, 48141



Sunrise: Sept. 29, 1944
Sunset: Oct. 16, 2008
Henry Windham, On October 16, 2008 Hank departed this life. He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife, Denise; six sons, Henry Jr.(Melody), James Charles (Sybil), Lawrence (Valerie), Maurice, Ricky (Dawnitta) and Kevin; one daughter, Carolyn Jean (Gregory); his mother, Mary Daniels; five sisters, Charlene Flood (Precious), Anita Thomas (Alex), Gayle Brown, Darla Edwards and Keechia; six brothers, Gerard, Kevin Daniels (Marguerite), Aaron (Karen), Brian (Beth), Tony and Darius; his mother-in-law Joyce Smoot; one aunt, four brother-in-laws sixteen grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Service to be held, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008, Family Hour: 10:00 am - Service: 11:00 am, Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S. Inkster rd.,

Inkster, MI 48141, Michael Fowler, Officiating, Interment: Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens



Orlando "O" Taylor
Sunrise: July 19, 1943
Sunset: October 13, 2008
Saturday, October 25, 2008
Family Hour: 10:00 a.m. - Home Going Service: 11:00 a.m.
Penn Funeral Home 3015 Inkster Rd. Inkster, Michigan Elder Nathan Fisher, Officiating
He leaves to cherish his loving memory, two devoted daughters, Yalonda Hibbert of Inkster, MI., and Adrienne Ware of Dearborn, MI.; two sons-in-law, Valentine Hibbert and Jeremy Ware; one grandson, Shemar Hibbert of Inkster, MI; two brothers, Percy (Delores) Taylor of Detroit, MI. and Leo Miller of Belleville, MI; five sisters, Rosa (Andrew) Baker of Inkster, MI, Faye Williams of Las Vegas, NV, Phyllis Miller of Inkster, MI, Shakirah Houston of Taylor, MI, and Shakeela Seiffuddin of Westland, MI; one aunt, Ruby (Claude) Willis of Detroit, MI. and a host of loving nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins, and friends.
INTERMENT
Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens



Michelle Bridgeforth
Sunrise: August 27, 1956
Sunset: October 10, 2008
Saturday, October 18, 2008
Family Hour: 10:00 - Home Going Service: 11:00 a.m.
Shekinah Glory Ministries Pastor David N. Roberts Officiating
She leaves to cherish her memories her four children

Michael (Rosly) Reginald (Troshawanna), Calvin, Jonique (Corey), - One step-son Darnell, two children she raised Tyriss and Kelly. Five grandchildren, Daivon, Dajon, Shaniah, Calvin Jr., and Dailen. Her siblings, Anthony and Lamar Jr. (who preceded her in death) Ronald (Ann), William, (Carolyn) Sandra (Billy) Monica (Sigmund) Deborah (James) Darryl (Stephenie) Frederick (Crystal) and Robin (Vicki) and Patricia, Mrs. George Jenkins (adopted mom), special friends, Joyce Morris, Cherry Walker-Height, Raymond Lightsey, Maxine Robinson, Shalan Gaines, Sheila Lindsey. Two godchildren Herman and Maurice. Pastor David & Brenda Roberts and the Shekinah Glory Ministries church family and a host of nices, nephews, relatives and friends.
Final Arrangements Entrust To:
Penn Funeral Home 3015 S. Inkster Rd., Inkster, MI
Interment
Michigan Memorial Park



Sandra L. Hines
Sunrise: September 5, 1947
September 30, 2008
Wednesday, October 8, 2008
Family Hour: 10:00 a.m. - Home Going Service 11:00 a.m.
Pilgrim Travelers Missionary Baptist Church 2945 S. John Daly Inkster, MI 48141
Pastor Charlie E. Knighten, Officiating
Lorraine is preceded in death by her sister and two brothers: Claudette Smith and Gary and Ray Smith. Lorraine departed this life September 30, 2008. She leaves to cherish in her memory her loving husband Joseph Hines Jr., her sons Bernard & Diana Holmes (Tim) of Denver Colorado, Marcus & Diana Madison of Inkster Michigan, Andre & Tanya Madison of Romulus, Michigan, Joseph Hines III of Inkster, Michigan; two sisters Earl & Jewel Alexander

of Romulus, Michigan, Gregory Smith of Buffalo New York, Phyllis Smith of Wayne, Michigan, Larry Smith (Pee Wee) of Romulus, Michigan; mother-in-law Eva Hines of Inkster Michigan.; four aunts Luebertha Selma (Ted), Emma Burns, Jeanette Cross, and Sarah Williams all of Inkster Michigan; seven sisters-in-law: Geneva, Mary, Willie, Eveal, Annette, Marilyn, Sherry; four brothers-in-law: Earl, Milton, Vincent, Tony; 14 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, and a host of other nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.
Penn Funeral Home 3015 S. Inkster Road Inkster, MI 48141
Mr. James H. Penn & Son, Directors (313) 278-6300
Interment
United Memorial Gardens

5. Announcements

Happy 76th Birthday Dad!
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59. Auctions

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Unit#126 Damond L. Watkins, Household Goods, Misc. Goods
Unit#384 Kenneth Dotson, Household Goods, Misc. Goods,
Recreational Items
Unit#385 Kenneth Dotson, Household Goods, Misc. Goods,
Recreational Items
Unit#440 Barabra J. Duffer, Household Goods, Misc. Goods,
Recreational Items
Unit#481 Kenton Ellis, Household Goods, Misc. Goods
Unit#520 Phillip A. Lannon, Household Goods, Misc. Goods,
Recreational Items
Unit#538 Jerry L. Wilcox, Household Goods, Misc. Goods

Notice of Public Sale
On November 18, 2008 at 1:00pm U-Store-It 401, 28266 Ecorse Rd., Romulus, MI 48174 will sell the following units to highest bidder by Cash. U-Store-It reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. "All items in storage units contain household and misc. items unless otherwise mentioned.
C18, Greg N. Pokorny, B51 Jovieta S. Carter, C25, Ed Musico, D39, Chad Shaver, D82, Demond B. Brown, E30, Charisma Harris, C1, Dawn Rojas, E39, D&M Home Improvement

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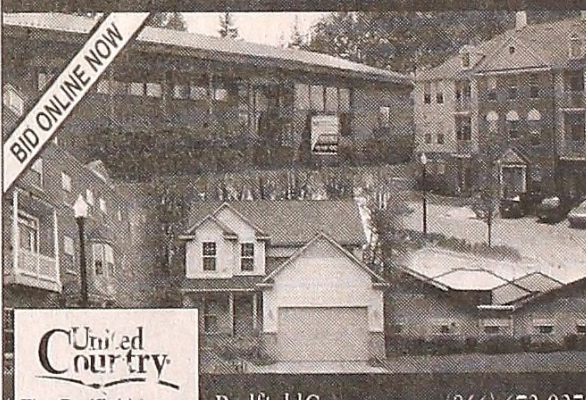
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SPORTS



Salem junior midfielder Lachlan Savage (12) makes a move on a Saline defender in the first half of the Division 1, Region 2 final at Saline on Saturday. Saline won the title, 1-2, in overtime.

Regional pains

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Both Salem and Northville won their district titles and moved on to the Regional tournament last week.

The Rocks and the Mustangs struggled in the advanced rounds of the state championship tournament with both teams falling to Saline-Northville in the semifinals and Salem in the finals.

Hornets sting Rocks in regional finale

The Salem Rocks' soccer season came to a screeching halt on Saturday night when host Saline put in a header in overtime to win the Division 1, Region 2 championship title.

Salem, the No. 1-ranked team in the state, fought a spirited game for almost 84 minutes before the Hornets stung them with a controversial goal four minutes into the over time period. Both teams played aggressive in the regional finale bout. Each had a player given a yellow card during the physical contest.

The Rocks, hungry for the victory, dominated the final 10 minutes of regulation but couldn't get anything past Saline junior goalkeeper Carter Beil.

That set stage for over time.

In the fourth minute of the extra frame, Saline put the pressure on Salem. Saline senior forward Kyle Mattson booted a shot through the back of the field. The play normally results in the opposing team receiving a goal kick. Instead the referees awarded Saline a corner kick.

And they made good on it.

Senior defender Dan Kuehn lobbed his kick to junior forward Zach Walega, who headed the ball in for the sudden-death victory.

Salem finished the tremendous season 22-1-4 over all and won a District championship.

Salem beat Dearborn, 4-0, in the regional semifinal last Tuesday in Saline.

The Rocks took a 3-0 lead at the half with a goal from junior mid/forward Scott O'Connor and two goals from senior defender Jace Bearden two minutes apart. Junior forward Alex Tramel scored in the ninth minute of the second half to put the game away.

Northville falls to Saline in state tourney

Just when things were falling into place for the Northville Mustangs the Saline Hornets had to come and stall everything for the soccer team.

After battling for and winning the District crown the previous week the Mustangs looked to be on track for another strong run in the state tournament. Last year Northville won the region before getting knocked out in the state semifinals.

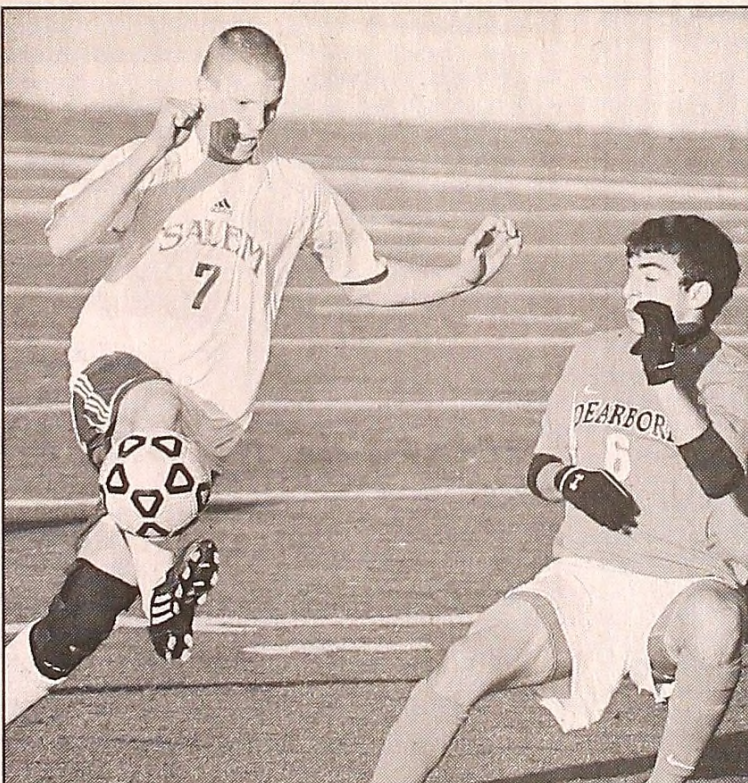
This year the Hornets prevented the 'Stangs from surpassing their 2007 campaign. The tough Saline squad knocked the Mustangs out of the regional tournament, 3-1, last Tuesday in Saline.

Walega got things going for Saline, scoring the game's first goal in the sixth minute of play. The 1-0 advantage stood to the end of the half.

The Mustangs were out of the gate quick in the second half and responded with a goal by senior forward Latif Alashe in the second minute of play. That would be it for Northville as Saline finished with tallies by Mattson and senior midfielder Yilson Asani.



Salem senior Dan Radosevich (18) tries to get by Saline's Ryan Williams in the Division 1, Region 2 finale at Saline on Saturday.



Salem senior defender Jace Bearden (7) knocks a pass away from Dearborn's Mustafa Raychouni in the early regional bout at Saline last Tuesday. Bearden scored two goals in the first half to help the Rocks win, 4-0. Photo by Ken Garner



Northville senior forward Latif Alashe, right, chases down a loose ball against a Saline defender in Tuesday's late regional semifinal match in Saline. The Hornets cut Northville's post-season run short with a 3-1 outcome. Alashe scored the lone Mustang goal in the second half. Photo by Ken Garner

Inkster falls Jags, readies for playoffs

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Inkster Vikings shut down the Jaguars in the second half to pull out a 22-15 victory at Allen Park on Friday night.

The performance wasn't stellar but Inkster Coach Greg Carter will take it.

"We played all right," he said. "It wasn't exceptional and I wasn't happy with the intensity at the start, but it was nice to see the kids face adversity and come back to win the game."

Allen Park—a football powerhouse for decades that came into the game with a 4-4 record—had a slim chance to make the playoffs at 5-4 if the team pulled off a win. Inkster slammed the door on the Jaguars' playoff hopes before they could stick their foot in the way.

Allen Park got on the board first with a three-yard run with 3:51 left in the first quarter. The 7-0 lead didn't last long.

Inkster junior quarterback Devin Gardner pushed in an eight-yard sneak and senior running back Alan Freeman pummeled his way for the two-point conversion to give Inkster the lead, 8-7.

Allen Park added a score and a two-point conversion to regain the lead, 15-8, with 1:41 left in the second. But on the last play of the second half, Garner plunged in a one-yard score. The conversion failed, giving the Jaguars a one-point edge, 15-14.

Neither team could get things going in the third. Inkster took nine minutes in the fourth quarter before they capped off the winning drive with a 10-yard trek by Gardner. Freeman added the two

points to finish off the Jags.

The Vikings didn't make it easy on themselves. They fumbled the ball three times—recovering two of them—and had a bad punt snap.

"We turned the ball over a lot," Carter said. "We can't do that in the playoffs. Allen Park is a proud program and they had lot to play for. Our defense played good and shut them out in the second. It was a good, tough game to win going into the playoffs."

Gardner finished 11-of-21 for 128 yards. He rushed 12 times for 49 yards to go with his three touchdowns.

Freeman racked up 117 yards on 14 rushes and caught one pass for 16 yards. Senior receiver Cameron Gordon led the team with five catches for 52 yards while Max Ingram added 42 yards on three receptions.

Senior defensive back DeSean McGhee nabbed an interception in the first quarter and notched a sack on fourth down with 1:58 left to play to seal the deal.

"It was a hard-fought game on both sides," Carter said. "We did a good job against a desperate team."

Inkster finished with a 8-1 overall record and earned home-field advantage through the playoffs with the victory.

The Vikings take on a 6-3 Mega White Gibraltar Carlson team at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

"We have to limit turnovers and mistakes and not give them good field position," Carter said. "We've been a little careless with the ball and we're not going to be as fortunate as we have been if we do those things in the playoffs."

Canton hitters edge John Glenn in 5

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Thursday night marked the final regular season volleyball contest and both Canton and John Glenn wanted the 'W' in their column.

The match lasted a thrilling five games before the Lady Chiefs pulled out the victory, 3-2, to spoil host Glenn's senior night.

"It was definitely an exciting match tonight," said Canton Coach Jen Barnes. "Both sides made some great plays that kept the games tight."

Canton won the first game, 25-19, but a stubborn Lady Rocket team wouldn't go away. Glenn battled back in the second to win, 26-24. The seesaw battle continued with the Lady Chiefs edging out a 25-23 victory in the third game.

Glenn continued its tough play and captured the fourth game, 25-18 to push for a game-five tiebreaker.

The final game came down to serving. Canton senior Janelle Burdiss and junior Jordan Kielty were forces on the serve in the final game to get the Lady Chiefs a 15-8 victory.

"In game five, Jordan Kielty and Janelle Burdiss served aggressively and to the location where we needed it to go," Barnes said. "Serving is always important for us so that the other teams are not able to choose a lot in their offense. At times we didn't hit location and missed too many."

Canton improved to 28-5 overall and 8-2 in the Kensington Lakes South Division—second to Churchill, who gave Canton their only two losses in league play.

Kielty knocked down 22 kills and freshman Kristen Muir had 17. Muir added 20 digs and Kielty 23 on defense.

Alaina Turner, recently brought up from the junior varsity squad,

contributed with four blocks. Turner is just part of the new-look line up that Barnes has tinkered with a majority of the season due to injuries in the regular rotation.

Senior Gina Waite was moved to setter and put up 40 assists for the Lady Chiefs against Glenn. With Waite setting, junior Lauren Macuga took over her defensive position, according to Barnes.

"We have two new starters in and one of our starters is not in her original spot," she said. "I have moved up a freshman middle (Alaina Turner) from our JV team, which is helping out our blocking a lot. I think once some of my injured players are back in, we'll be able to use her more on the quick attack. Gina Waite has done majority of the setting these past few games and she has done a great job."

Glenn was impressive in the final match and finished the regular season 5-5 in Kensington Lakes play for fourth place in the South Division and 17-11-7 overall. Last year Glenn finished 3-7 in the former Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA).

"This is a big improvement on where we finished last year at this time," said Glenn Coach Julian Wargo. "Tonight's hard-fought loss gives us reason to hope for the KLAA playoffs and district tournament."

Seniors Stacy Truskowski and Brittany Holbrook continue to shine for the Lady Rockets.

Holbrook led the attack with 19 kills and three blocks while Truskowski added 10 kills. Both had 29 digs.

Brooke Zywick led the defense with 37 digs. Halie Baker added 10 kills and two blocks and Brittani Robinson posted six kills and had one block.

See **Hitters**, page 11

Romulus Eagles down Plymouth

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Romulus Eagles' up-again, down-again season finished on the upside with a 30-27 non-league victory over visiting Plymouth on Friday night.

While it's a coin toss every week as to which Romulus team would show up to play, the usually dominant and steady Plymouth—a playoff-bound team with a 6-2 record coming into the contest—was out of sync with key injuries.

The Wildcats lost handily last week to Stevenson and struggled against Franklin and John Glenn before that.

Romulus came out fighting and took advantage of a down-and-out Plymouth squad.

Early in the contest Romulus senior defensive back Antonio Brown snagged an interception and returned 53 yards for the first score of the game. Senior quarterback Rodney Colfield completed a pass to senior wide receiver Taishawn Blackmon to set up his one-yard push into the end zone.

That put his Eagles up, 14-0.

Then in the second quarter

Romulus senior linebacker Casey Gurner got his hands on the ball and scored the Eagles' third touchdown. Junior running back Marcel Rogers ran in the two-point conversion for a 22-0 lead.

Romulus had a chance to slam the door shut in the second half when Rogers busted loose for a 45-yard touchdown, but the play was called back on a holding call.

Romulus' defense stepped up again on Plymouth's ensuing drive. Senior Donnavin Searcy got free and wrapped Plymouth senior quarterback Matt Skubik up in the Wildcat end zone. The ball flew out of Skubik's hands and out the back of the end zone, resulting in a safety and a 24-0 lead for Romulus.

Then something happened—Plymouth woke up.

The Wildcats scored 20 points in the final five minutes of the third quarter.

Senior running back Terrance Guthridge capped off a drive with a nine-yard run to make it 24-7 at the 5:07 mark. A bad punt snap set Plymouth up for a 25-yard run by Guthridge with 3:01 left to play. Then Plymouth recovered a fumble



Romulus senior quarterback Rodney Colfield (10) fends off Plymouth attacker Alex Winn (92) in the Eagles' 30-27 victory on Friday.

See Football, page 11



in Romulus territory. Guthridge scored again from four yards out with a minute left on the clock to close the gap, 24-20.

Not only did the Wildcats wake up, they charged to the lead in the fourth quarter.

Guthridge, who was quiet in the first half, scored the team's fourth and final touchdown on a 15-yard run to go up 27-24 with 7:34 left to play.

Then something else happened—Romulus didn't give up or implode as the Eagles had in the past.

On third-and-15, a triple-covered Derek Kinney snagged a 25-yard pass to keep the Eagles' hopes alive. The play set up a Cofield-Searcy connection for the winning touchdown.

"We're very happy with it," said Romulus Coach Keith Wittkopp. "We knew they had a good team, but I thought we put together a good plan. They took advantage of some turnovers but I think our defense played well."

Cofield turned in a 9-of-14 performance for 155 yards passing.

The Romulus 5-2 defense kept Guthridge in

Romulus senior Donnavin Searcy (82) wraps up Plymouth senior quarterback Matt Skubik in the Wildcat end zone. Skubik let the ball fly out the back of the field, resulting in a safety and a 24-0 lead for the Eagles.

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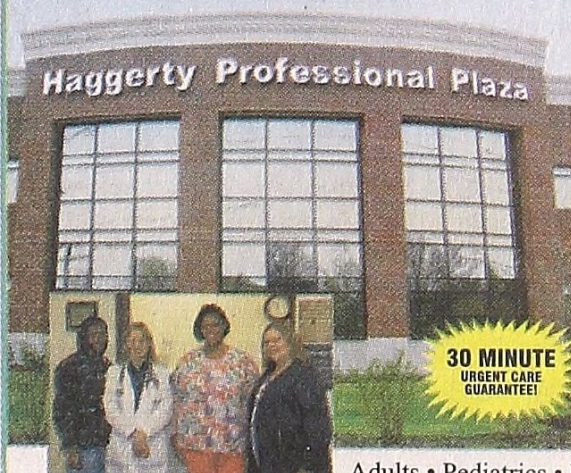
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Romulus spikers win U of M silver bracket

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Romulus Lady Eagle varsity volleyball squad won the silver bracket at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Tournament on Saturday.

They beat Ferndale twice, 25-19 and 25-19, in the first match and again, 25-17 and 25-20, in the second match. Romulus met their match with state-ranked Churchill, losing to the Chargers twice—8-25 and 17-25 in the first match and 17-25 and 15-25 in the second—landing them in the Silver bracket for the playoffs.

Churchill won the tournament outright.

“The girls fought hard against them,” said Romulus Coach Mike Hunter. “We played them a lot better the second time and every one complimented us on how we stayed competitive with them.”

It took Romulus three games, but the Lady Eagles beat a tough Detroit Renaissance crew 25-15, 21-25 and 15-13 in the first round of playoffs.

“They were bigger than we were but we played better defense,” Hunter said. “The defense really took over the game. We had good passing from Sheila Watts and Samantha Watson.”

In the quarterfinals, Romulus defeated Lamphere in two games, 25-21 and 25-18. The victory sent the Eagles into the finals

against fellow Mega rival Taylor Kennedy. The first game was close, but Romulus pulled out a 26-24 win and blasted Kennedy, 25-16, in the second game to win the match and the bracket.

“It’s a great time when you we get to play them,” Hunter said. “We had great play from Brianna Grover and Sheila Reeves. Both played great all day long.”

Romulus had a tougher time last Wednesday when they lost both matches in a doubleheader against Woodhaven and Carlson at Woodhaven.

Carlson thumped them in all three games (21-25, 21-25 and 22-25).

“They came out strong,” Hunter said of the opponent. “After that first game we never got back into it.”

The Eagles didn’t fair any better against host Woodhaven, losing all three games (18-25, 21-25 and 24-26).

It was the first time hunter and crew participated in a double-header—let alone a league one.

“It was difficult for me and for the girls,” he said. “It was tough trying to prepare for two teams. We were right there, though, in every game—we just couldn’t get that extra hit. We just came up short.”

Districts start next week for the Eagles.

Romulus plays the winner of the Belleville-Ypsilanti match at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at Ypsilanti.

Belleville gridgers finish 0-9 for second year

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The 2008 season was a long haul for the Belleville Tigers football team. They didn’t win a contest for the second consecutive year and extended their winless streak to 20 games.

The Tigers finished out their latest campaign on Friday with a 42-13 loss to a now 8-1 playoff-bound host Milan.

The Big Reds took a 21-0 lead before the Tigers had a chance to feel out their surroundings. Once they settled down, Belleville narrowed the gap some when sophomore running back Javaunte Mackson scampered 55 yards for a score in the second quarter.

Milan didn’t take too kindly to that and answered with another tally to end the first half, 28-7.

The Big Reds attached two more scores in the second half before Belleville got things together again in the fourth quarter.

Senior quarterback Lorenzo Reese constructed a good final drive for the Tigers. He completed a 33-yard pass to senior halfback Deonte Bruce-Ruffin and a 25-yard connection to junior tight end Alantae Phelan before he broke loose for a 25-yard jaunt to pay dirt.

Reese finished 6-of-9 for 88 yards passing to go with his rushing touchdown.

Milan was methodical with their drives,

according to Belleville Coach Bob LaPointe.

“I think we underestimated their patience in moving the ball,” he said. “They controlled the whole tempo of the game.”

Nobody—including LaPointe—understands why the team has not performed lately. Belleville has only won one game in the last three years, posting a 26-1 record over that period. There’s only one thing the team can do, according to LaPointe: keep on going.

“We can’t go out there and recruit and we can’t go out there and pick players off of waivers,” he said. “We just have to keep going at it.”

LaPointe said he has a lot of returning players coming back next year and some good players on the junior varsity team. There are even some players on the freshmen team that he might bring up to play as sophomores for 2009.

Although their record doesn’t show it, the Tigers were competitive in most games—they even scored a season-high 42 points against Woodhaven—but still found ways to lose.

“We had several chances to win some games this year,” LaPointe said. “For some reason, we would stumble somewhere along the line. It was always different situations, too. When we tried to fix those problems something else would break.”

Football

FROM PAGE 10

check for most of the game and swarmed to the ball keeping Skubik on his toes.

“I think out kids just thought they were going to roll over (Romulus),” said Plymouth Coach Mike Sawchuk. “We just didn’t get off of the football in the first-just didn’t do a good job at all. I didn’t do a good enough job preparing the team.”

Plymouth gears up for a rematch with Canton in a Division 1 pre-district bout at 7 p.m. on Friday.

“We match up well with Canton,”

Sawchuk said, who added that his biggest concern is the health of his team. “We are a little banged up right now with key kids out. We just have to get healthy—that’s out main thing.”

Romulus won’t be going to the playoffs but the Eagles did improve on last year’s winless record to 4-5.

“The way I look at it is we had two different teams—one that was phenomenal and one that would give up,” Wittkopp said. “We never knew which one would show up.

“We need to improve on what we do in the off season and our strength,” he added. “I think we need to improve on general football knowledge because we made some mistakes because we didn’t know any better.”

Hitters

FROM PAGE 9

The team combined for five aces and 11 serve errors on 74 attempts.

“There was a lot on the line for us tonight,” Wargo said. “If we win, we finish third; we lose and we finish fourth. I knew that we would be playing with a lot of emotion; I just didn’t know how long we could sustain it.”

The Rockets were down but not out after losing the first game. They won the second to keep them in it and provided the motivation to win game three.

“I am very proud of the way my players responded tonight. Taking the second game was huge for us,” Wargo said. “And the girls made the adjustments needed so that we were always in a position to win in games three and four.”

With the district tournament around the corner Barnes hopes to get her original line-up in order.

“We’re still working out some things in our new line up—it’s tough having changes this late in the season,” Barnes said. “Our blocking has improved and is really helping out the defense. We are hopeful that all the injuries should be gone by the time districts comes around and we’ll be in more of a consistent line up that we are used to.”

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 21, 2008

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Clair, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: None. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Public Safety Director Champagne, Parks and Recreation Director Ross, Planning and Economic Development Deputy Director Swallow, Secretary Cline and an audience of twenty-two (22).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Payne moved, Jahr seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

MINUTES: Rochowiak moved, Hart seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of October 6, 2008 as presented. Carried.

Budd moved, Clair seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2008 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Representatives from Van Buren Public Schools provided a power point presentation in an effort to educate people on the two Van Buren Public Schools ballot proposals on the November 4, 2008 General Election ballot.

Yard waste pick-up in Van Buren Township will end the week of November 24th through 28th and will resume the first full week of April.

Director Ross announced the Township is in receipt of a \$2,000 mini-grant, from the Detroit Wayne County Mental Health Agency. The monies will be used for the Recreation Departments “Get Up and Get Active” program.

Supervisor King announced Wayne County Executive Ficano’s Office and Northwestern Airlines has a “Home for the Holiday’s Application” to be considered for this program you must be 65 years of age or over. For more information contact the Wayne County Executive Office located at 600 Randolph Street in the City of Detroit.

Wayne County Department of Environment is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, November 8th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Westland DPS Yard, located at 37137 Marquette Road. For more information contact the Wayne County Department of Environment at 734.326.3936.

The Wayne County Fairgrounds is hosting Spook-Tacular haunted hayrides and corn maze on Friday, October 24th and Saturday, October 25th for more information call 734.697.7002.

On Wednesday, November 12th the Belleville Professional Women will be hosting their annual Fashion Show at the Woodlands of Van Buren.

Supervisor King stated in [Crain’s Detroit Business](#) magazine, Van Buren Township was indirectly recognized by the Urban Land Institute for the Real Estate Excellence Award of Lease of the Year for the NEPACO Drive lease arrangement located on Haggerty Road.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Jahr moved, Budd seconded to approve the reappointments of Tom Kryza, Angela Netro and Juanita Jensen to the Board of Review with terms to expire December 31, 2010. Carried.

Clair moved, Rochowiak seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-42 to establish the Van Buren Township Health Care Trust with Burnham and Flower Agency, and to authorize execution of the appropriate documents related to establishing the Trust by the Township Supervisor and Clerk and to transfer \$1,350,000 as follows: \$300,000 from the General Fund designated Fund Balance and \$1,050,000 from the Landfill Fund designated Fund Balance, for the fiscal year 2008. Carried.

Payne moved, Rochowiak seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-43 approving the Interlocal Agreement between the Detroit Region Aerotropolis partners and stakeholders creating the Aerotropolis Development Corporation. Carried.

Hart moved, Budd seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-44 approving the acceptance of biosolid materials by Waste Management, Inc. at Woodland Meadows Recycling and Disposal Facility. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the October 21, 2008 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Clerk Payne stated the State of Michigan does not have “Early Voting” Michigan has Absentee Voting where a voter completes an absentee ballot request form and meets one of the six requirement for an Absentee Ballot. For more information residents can contact the Clerk’s Office at 734.699.8909.

Director Ross announced The “Haunted Forest” will be held Friday October 24th, Saturday October 25th, Friday October 31st and Saturday November 1st from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Van Buren Park. For more information contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 734.699.8921.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): A Harmony Lane resident gave an update on litigation and proceedings which have taken place regarding the garage built next to his house on Harmony Lane.

A resident inquired about a local candidate speaking to the Fire Fighters during a recent training session. Director Champagne stated the candidate spoke during the Union Meeting not during the training session.

A resident of Harmony Lane also commented on the Harmony Lane garage.

A resident stated he received communication regarding a local candidate speaking to the Fire Fighters during a Fire Fighting training session. Supervisor King reiterated the candidate spoke during the Union Meeting and not during the training session.

The candidate who met with the Fire Fighters responded stating he met with the Fire Fighters during their Union Meeting and not during the training session.

Trustee Rochowiak stated this is his last Board of Trustees Meeting and thanked the residents of Van Buren Township and will continue to serve the community. The Board thanked Trustee Rochowiak for his 20 years service.

A resident also thanked Trustee Rochowiak for his years of service.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Jahr moved, Clair seconded to adjourn at 10:32 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Supervisor

Date: _____
Approved: _____

Publish: October 30, 2008

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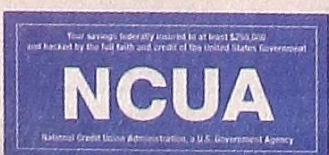
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